

B-3150 - B-3159  
801-833 William St. (East side)  
Baltimore, Md.  
Private access

1850-1857

The majority of the houses lining this side of the 800 block of William St. are three story, two or three bay wide brick houses with gable roofs. Like the similar houses across William St. and around the corner on Warren Ave., these houses were built for a middle class market and are larger and more spacious than the average two story plus attic house built for the working class inhabitants of the neighborhood. 801 William St. is now a corner grocery store and the original gable roof has been replaced by a shed roof. 803 William St. is one of only two Classical-Revival style, bow-fronted brick houses with brownstone trim in the area, the other being 804 William St., directly across the street. 811-817 William St. are three story, two bay wide shed-roofed houses, built as a unit in 1857, an early use of the shed roof in this area. The row of houses at 819-833 William St. was built by Nicholas Popplein, at the time the proprietor of a chemical manufactory at the foot of Cross St. and who later became an extremely wealthy resident of Eutaw Place and important chemical, paint, and varnish manufacturer.

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

B-3159  
MAGI 0431592504

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

831-833 William St.

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

#### CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

#### OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

#### STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

#### PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Records Office Room 601

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Baltimore City Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland 21202

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**

☒ EXCELLENT      ☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ GOOD            ☐ RUINS  
☐ FAIR             ☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This pair of three story, two bay brick houses with gable roofs formed part of the original row of such houses built along this side of William St. in the 1850's. The houses have two windows, in addition to the door, at the first floor level.

The houses are three stories in height, 16' wide, and occupy lots 80' deep. Each house has a three story high, one bay wide and deep stair hall extension which connects the main house to a rear addition. At 831 William St. there is a two story high, two bay deep kitchen addition, with an added, later one story high, three bay deep section. At 833 William St. there is a two story high, three bay deep addition with an added one story high, one bay deep frame section. The houses are constructed in common bond. The low-pitched gable roof has a simple, two-tiered brick cornice. There is a double chimney located centrally along the partition wall between the two houses, on both the front and rear gables. Each house also has a rear end chimney, located at the eastern end of the kitchen addition.

The door and window openings of both houses have common arch lintels with solid wood tympanums. The first and second floor windows have stone sills; the third floor windows have wood sills. The window openings of 831 William St. are filled with 6/6 double hung sash; the openings of 833 William St. are filled with 1/1 sash. At 831 William St. a modern six panel door is set beneath a single light transom. At 833 William St. a late Victorian glass and panel door is set beneath the same single light transom. The houses sit on high basements, the entrances being reached by three stone steps each. Each house has a square basement window opening with a common arched lintel and a square coal opening with metal door located beneath the first floor windows.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

B-3159

### PERIOD

☐ PREHISTORIC  
☐ 1400-1499  
☐ 1500-1599  
☐ 1600-1699  
☐ 1700-1799  
☒ 1800-1899  
☐ 1900-

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  
☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC  
☐ AGRICULTURE  
☒ ARCHITECTURE  
☐ ART  
☐ COMMERCE  
☐ COMMUNICATIONS

### AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING  
☐ CONSERVATION  
☐ ECONOMICS  
☐ EDUCATION  
☐ ENGINEERING  
☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT  
☐ INDUSTRY  
☐ INVENTION

☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
☐ LAW  
☐ LITERATURE  
☐ MILITARY  
☐ MUSIC  
☐ PHILOSOPHY  
☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

☐ RELIGION  
☐ SCIENCE  
☐ SCULPTURE  
☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN  
☐ THEATER  
☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES 1853

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Nicholas and George Popplein

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

See under 825-829 William St.

This particular pair of houses differs from the adjoining houses to the north by being three bays wide on the first floor, thus allowing for a separate entrance hall leading from the doorway to the stair hall at the rear of the main section of the house. This group of houses formerly included a third similar house, at 835 William St. but in recent renovation attempts the entire south wall of the house collapsed and the structure was razed.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

M.E. Hayward / Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Maryland Historical Trust / Struever Bros. &amp; Eccles

4/79

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

1745 Circle Rd.

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Ruxton

Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

ST.

AVE.

ST

BATTERY

WARREN

AVE.

937

B-3159

CIT  
DEPARTME



# HISTORIC PRESERVATION CERTIFICATION

## APPLICATION — PART 1

(Pursuant to the Tax Reform Act of 1976)

Instructions: Applicant should read the instructions carefully before completing application. No Certification may be made unless a completed application form has been received (P.L. 94-455). Use typewriter or print clearly in dark ink to complete the application form. If additional space is needed to complete Part 1, use the reverse side or a separate plain sheet of paper clearly indicating the owner's name and mailing address. Part 1 of this application may be completed and sent to the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer at any time during the year, and may be sent separately or with Part 2.

### PART 1 EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

#### 1. NAME OF PROPERTY: The Denny Building

Address of property, Street: 709 - 717 Light Street (alternatively, 100 E. Montgomery Street)

City Baltimore County City State Maryland Zip Code 21230

Name of historic district in which property is located Federal Hill (National) Historic District

#### 2. DESCRIPTION OF PHYSICAL APPEARANCE:

(See instructions for map and photograph requirements—use reverse side if necessary.)

The building (Photo. 1) is a four story 55' x 30' rectangular brick structure, with regular fenestration on the south and west walls, a party wall on the east, a former interior party wall now partially exposed and with minimal openings on the north, and an essentially flat roof. It was built in 1853 and with the exception of (Cont.)

#### 3. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

(Use reverse side if necessary.)

By virtue of its scale, location, and history, the Denny Building is one of the primary structures in the Federal Hill Historic District. In an historic district survey conducted in the mid-1960's, the architectural historian Mr. Russell Wright determined the building to be of the first order of significance to the District. (Cont.)  
Date of construction (if known) 1853 ☒ Original site ☐ Moved Date of alterations (if known) Approximately 1870, 1893, 1920, 1935

#### 4. NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF OWNER:

Name The Denny Building General Partnership

Street 1200 N. Charles Street (attn. Mr. Richard Needham)

City Baltimore State Maryland Zip Code 21201

Telephone Number (during day) Area Code 301-539-0440

I hereby attest that the information I have provided is to the best of my knowledge correct and that I am owner of the property described above

Signature [Signature] Date Nov 7, 1980  
(signed) Richard Needham, Managing and General Partner

#### For office use only

The structure described above is included within the boundaries of the National Register historic district and ☒ contributes ☐ does not contribute to the character of the district.

The structure ☐ appears ☐ does not appear to meet National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.6) and ☐ will likely ☐ will not be nominated to the National Register in accord with the Department of the Interior procedures (36 CFR 60.1).

The structure is located in a district which ☐ appears ☐ does not appear to meet National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.6). ☐ will likely ☐ will not be nominated to the National Register in accord with Department of the Interior procedures (36 CFR 60.1) and ☐ appears ☐ does not appear to contribute to the character of the district.

Signature [Signature] Date 11-8-80  
State Historic Preservation Officer

This property has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Department of the Interior (36 CFR 67) and, if subject to depreciation under section 167 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954:

☐ is hereby certified a historic structure  
☐ does not contribute to the character of the historic district and does not merit certification as a historic structure. Reasons given on the attached sheet.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of the National Register



# 2 (cont.) the cornice, storefront, three window openings, and a water table, remains essentially unaltered.

The west wall (Photo. 1) is the principal facade. It is 30' wide and 46' high. Four original and evenly spaced window openings punctuate each of the second, third and fourth floors. Lintels are cast-iron with Athemion ornament. The first floor, essentially a shopfront last altered about 1935, is faced with a limestone facade trimmed with a black granite base and door surround and a scalloped limestone freize. The door frame is stainless steel clad; the single panel is missing. Windows on the first floor are steel casement. A simple brick parapet trimmed with a limestone band caps the larger facade.

The south wall (Photo. 1), measuring 55' x 46', is the secondary facade. Four original and evenly spaced window openings, similar to those on the west but with a soldier course brick, punctuate each of the second, third and fourth floors. Window openings on the first floor are evenly spaced and sized. Two are original, two altered about 1870 and one altered about 1935. Sixteen feet of stone veneer storefront wraps around from the west first floor. Portions of two glazed double doors remain towards either end of the facade. There is a brick water table installed in 1893 to cover the stone foundation that was exposed with the lowering of the street grade. A circa 1920 brick parapet with limestone trim, similar to that on the west, caps the wall. It steps down some 16" in two stages from west to east.

The east wall (Photo. 3) is 30' x 46'. For three stories it abuts an adjacent gable-roofed structure. At the fourth floor level, chimneys from the adjacent structure are incorporated, as well as a vestigial sill line and remnants of a former window opening. The parapet is similar to that on the west.

The north wall (Photo. 2) measures 55' by approximately 46' above grade. Constructed of soft interior brick as befits its former party wall status, the wall is now characterized by crumbling chunks of brick, remnants of plaster and paint, joist pockets from the formerly adjacent structure, and an uneven row of small openings on the fourth floor. The parapet, altered most recently about 1920, is similar to the stepped parapet on the south.

\*\*\*\*\*

# 3 (cont.) In a district composed of two and three story buildings on average 15' lots, the Denny Building -- at four stories and 55' x 30' -- clearly stands out (Photos. 1 and 2). It is even more prominent because of its location. Situated at the corner of Light and East Montgomery Streets (Fig. 1), the building is the first structure located in the District that one sees from the Central Business District and Inner Harbor Urban Renewal Area. It is the "gateway" to Federal Hill for much of the city, an integral part of the Light Street commercial area, and an established presence on Montgomery Street, the Historic District's oldest and most prestigious residential street.

The building has established its prominence over the last 127 years (Photos. 5,6,7). Constructed in 1853 as the Armstrong-Denny Furniture Warerooms, it initially served as a furniture store, casket manufacturing shop and funeral home. From circa 1870 to 1970, when it was purchased by the City, the building functioned solely as the home of the Denny Funeral Service. Mr. Sherman Denny, the principal surviving heir (and still in the funeral business in Baltimore under another name) has given permission to continue using the family name on the building. (Cont.)



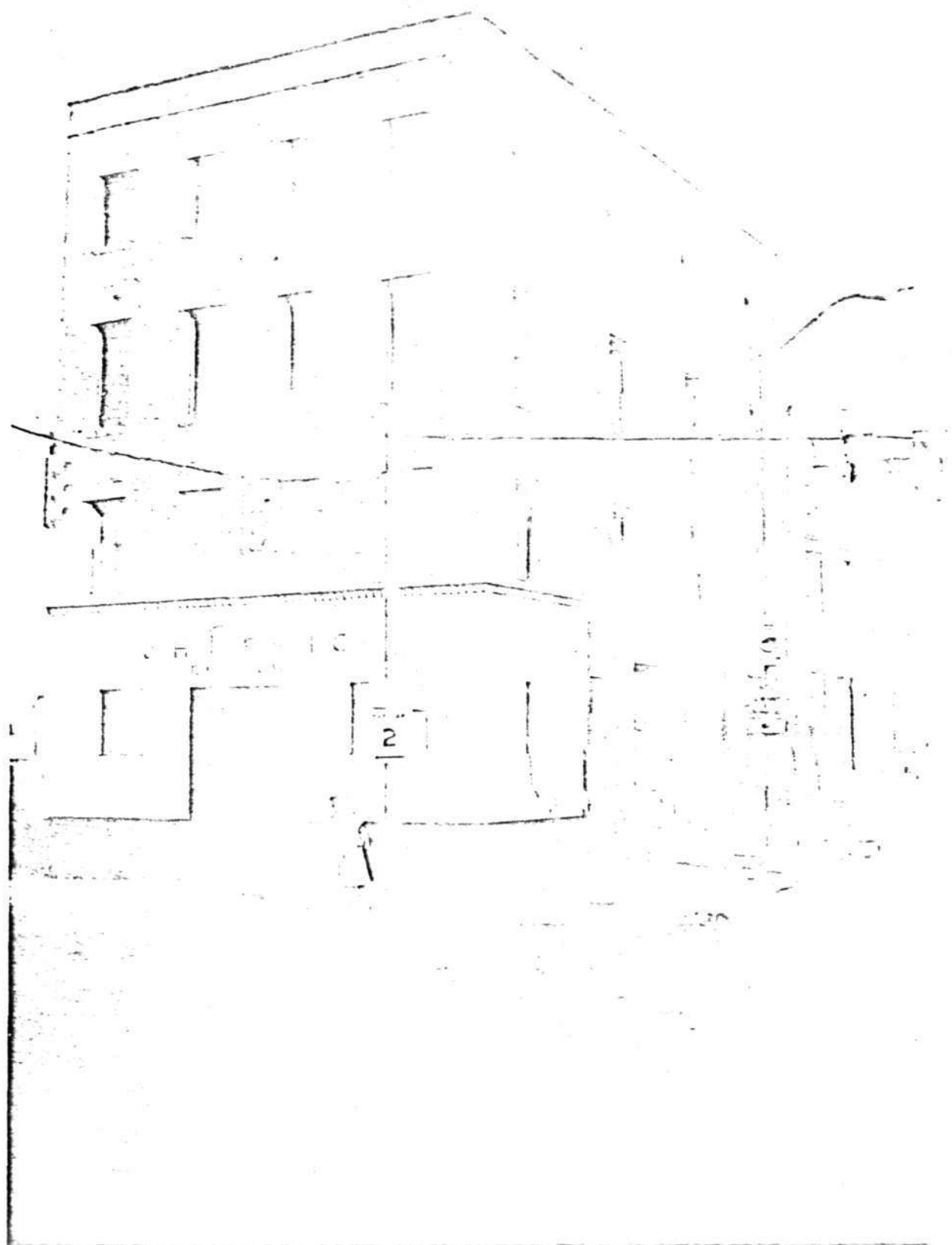


Fig. 1 Perspective from S.W.

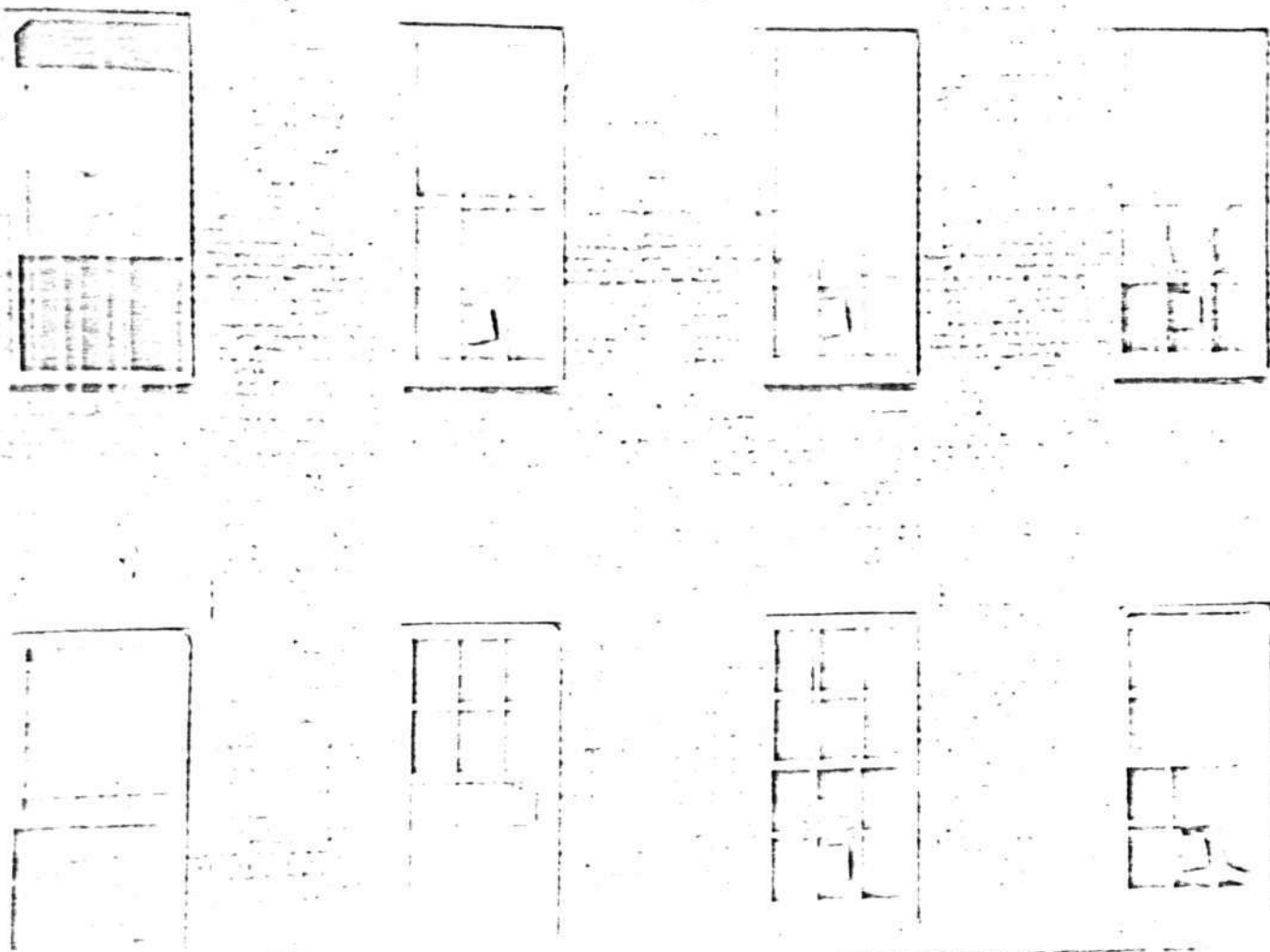


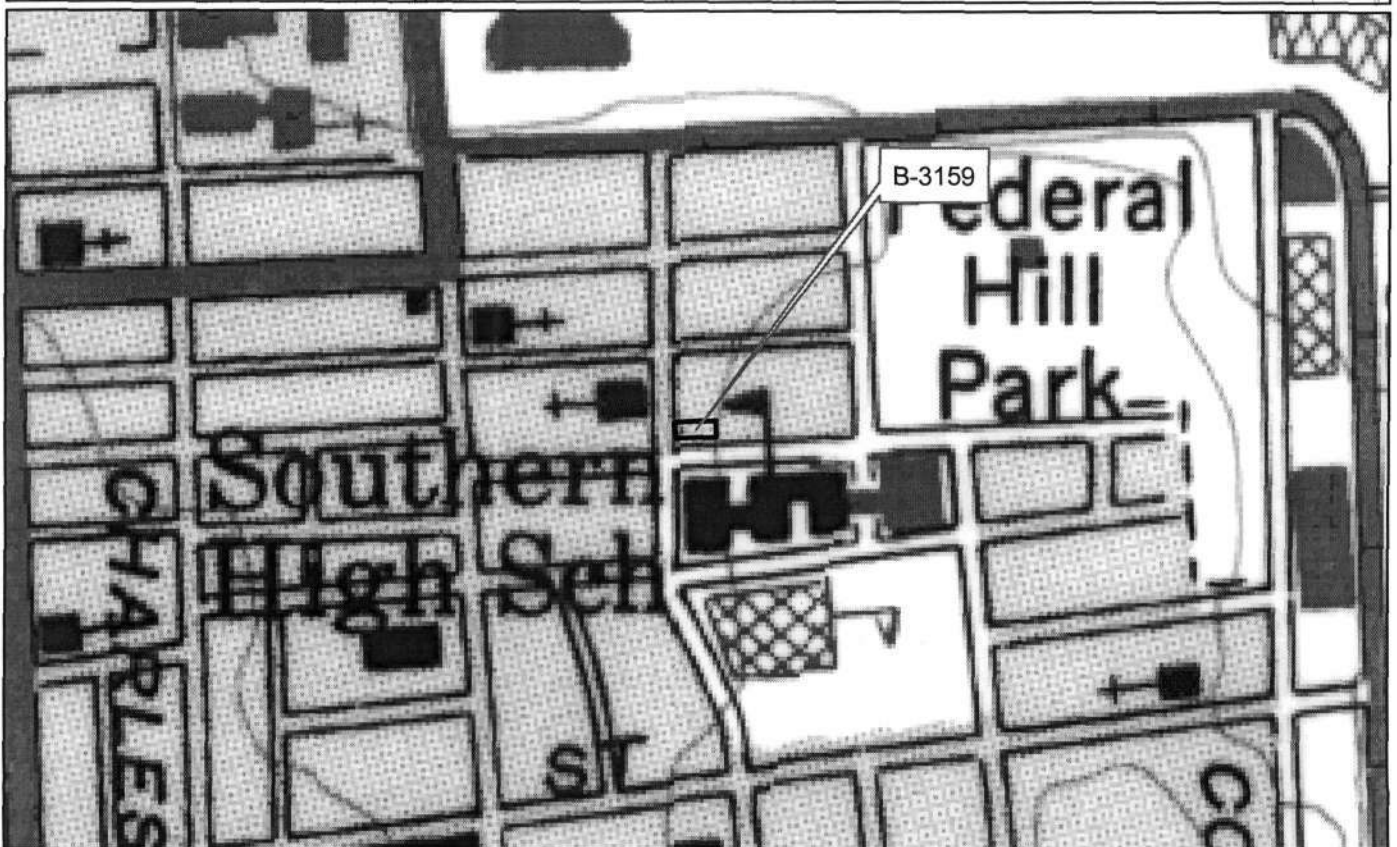
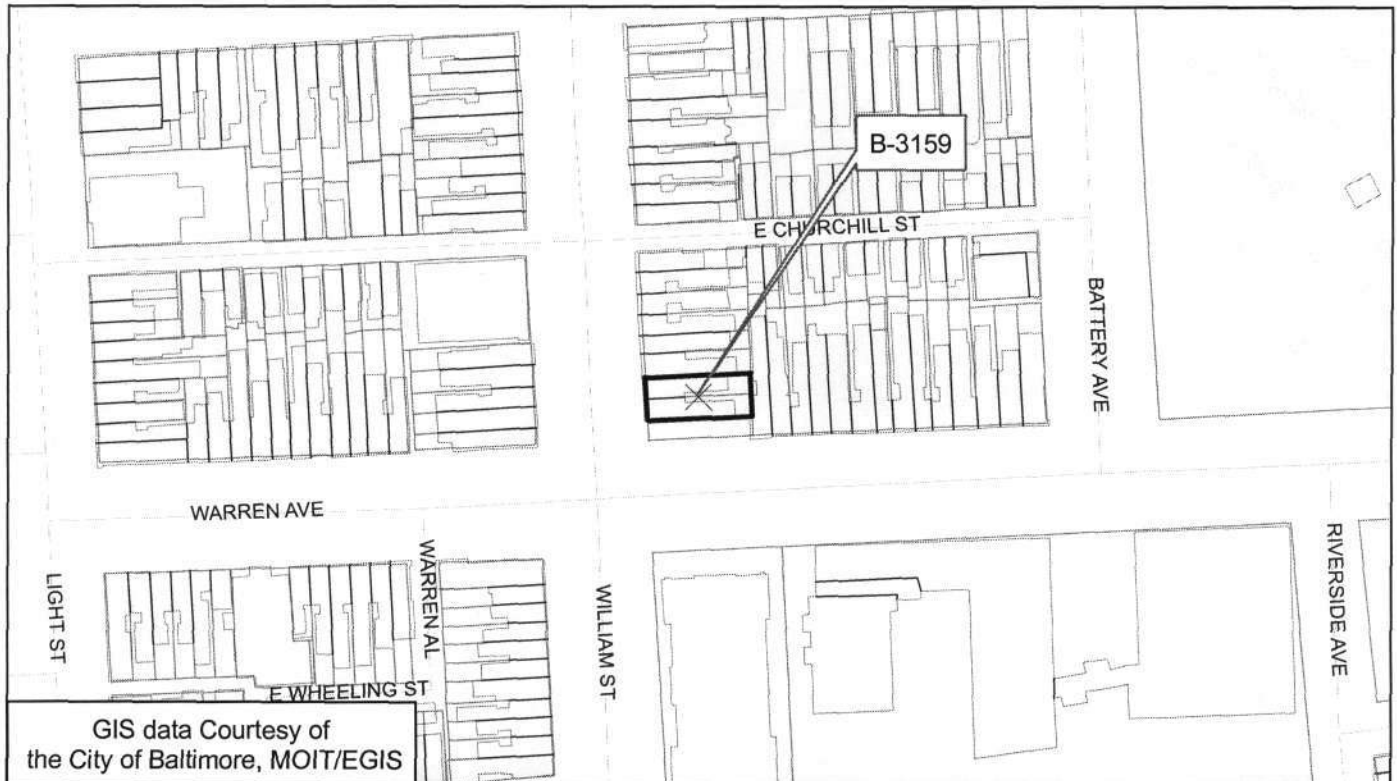
Fig. 4 Lintel Detail

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Fig. 6 Circa 1893

B-3159  
831-833 William Street  
Block 0907 Lot 016-017  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.





B-3159      831-833 William St.

M.E.H.      4/79

West elevation